

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ISRAEL MERMELSTEIN,

Civil Action No.:

Plaintiff,

-against-

DANIELS NORELLI SCULLY  
and CECERE, PC,

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Defendant(s),

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Plaintiff ISRAEL MERMELSTEIN ("Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, M. Harvey Rephen & Associates, P.C. by Edward B. Geller, Esq., P.C., Of Counsel, as and for its Complaint against the Defendant DANIELS NORELLI SCULLY and CECERE, PC (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), respectfully sets forth, complains and alleges, upon information and belief, the following:

**INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Plaintiff brings this action on his own behalf for damages and declaratory and injunctive relief arising from the Defendant's violation(s) of §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA").

**PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff ISRAEL MERMELSTEIN is a resident of the State of New York, residing at 25 Stern Avenue, Apartment 103, Spring Valley, New York 10977.

3. Defendant DANIELS NORELLI SCULLY and CECERE, PC is a private

corporation engaged in the business of debt collection with an office address at 1 Old Country Road, Suite LL5, Carle Place, New York 11514.

4. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 USC § 1692 a (3).

5. The Defendant is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined and used in the FDCPA under 15 USC §1692a (6).

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 USC §1331, as well as 15 USC §1692 et seq. and 28 U.S.C. §2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1337(a).

7. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

**ALLEGATIONS FOR CLASS ACTION**

8. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP") Rule 23, on behalf of himself and all persons/consumers, along with their successors-in-interest, who have received similar debt collection notices and/or letters/communications from Defendant which, as alleged herein, are in violation of the FDCPA, as of the date of Plaintiff's Complaint (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class is Defendant herein, and any person, firm, trust, corporation, or other entity related to or affiliated with the defendant, including, without limitation, persons who are officers, directors, employees, associates or partners of Defendant. Upon information and belief, hundreds of persons have received debt collection notices and/or letters/communications from Defendant, which violate various provisions of the FDCPA.

9. This Class satisfies all the requirements of FRCP Rule 23 for maintaining a class action.

10. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, hundreds of persons have received debt collection notices and/or letters/communications from Defendant, which violate various provisions of the FDCPA.

11. The debt collection notices and/or letters/communications from Defendant, received by the Class, are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."

12. There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation: (i) Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA; (ii) Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendant's conduct; (c) Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and, if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and, (iv) Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.

13. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, and Plaintiff has no interests adverse or antagonistic to the interests of other members of the Class.

14. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted, this being specifically envisioned by

Congress as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA, as codified by 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k).

15. The members of the Class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action.

16. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties.

17. A class action will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment also will permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.

18. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the Class members' interests, in that the Plaintiff's counsel is experienced and, further, anticipates no impediments in the pursuit and maintenance of the class action as sought herein.

19. Absent a class action, the Class members will continue to suffer losses borne from Defendant's breaches of Class members' statutorily protected rights as well as monetary damages, thus allowing and enabling: (a) Defendant's conduct to proceed and; (b) Defendant to further enjoy the benefit of its ill-gotten gains.

20. Defendant has acted, and will act, on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate a final injunctive relief or corresponding

declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

21. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "20" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

22. Upon information and belief, Defendant, on behalf of a third-party, began efforts to collect an alleged consumer debt from the Plaintiff.

23. Upon information and belief, and better known to the Defendant, the Defendant began its collection efforts and campaign of communications with the Plaintiff on or about April 2009 when Defendant obtained a Default Judgment against Plaintiff in Rockland County Supreme Court.

24. Defendant obtained said Default Judgment by service of process which claimed on an Affidavit (hereafter, the "Affidavit") that said service was made by means of affixing a Summons and Complaint to Plaintiff's premises.

25. In fact, Plaintiff did not receive any documents and had no knowledge of said Judgment.

26. The Affidavit also checked a box which claimed that "Deponent asked person spoken to whether respondent/defendant was presently in military service of the United States."

27. Upon information and belief, no such person existed.

28. The Affidavit was signed by "Mike Lewis" of "Accelerated Process Service" in Lake Success, New York.